

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 THESSA 00231 071430Z

53

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

NIC-01 /054 W

----- 022075

P 071245Z APR 75

FM AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2305

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE THESSALONIKI 0231

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, GR

SUBJECT: LEFTISTS GAIN MUNICIPAL VICTORIES IN
THESSALONIKI AND NORTH.

REF: 1) THESSALONIKI'S 227 2) THESSALONIKI'S 222
3) THESSALONIKI'S 218

1. IN ORDERLY RUN-OFF ELECTION HELD APRIL 6, LEFTIST,
PASOK AND COMMUNIST-BACKED CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR OF
THESSALONIKI, MICHAEL PAPADOPOULOS, SNATCHED VICTORY FROM
CENTRIST LAWYER DEMETRIOS ZANNAS BY 864 VOTES, POLLING
50.3 PERCENT, OR 61,783 VOTES OF 122,702 VALID VOTES
CAST, WITH ONLY ONE SMALL STATION YET TO BE REPORTED.
ALSO IN SUBURBAN THESSALONIKI COMMUNITIES, CANDIDATES
CONSIDERED LEFTIST CAPTURED SEVEN MUNICIPAL RACES,
WHILE CENTRIST-TO-RIGHT OPPONENTS WON ONLY THREE.

2. ZANNAS LOSS, WHICH CAME AS SHOCK TO MANY, ATTRIBUTED
BY MONDAY MORNING QUARTERBACKS HERE TO SEVERAL
FACTORS, INCLUDING: A) SOLIDITY AND HARD CAMPAIGNING
BY LEFTIST FORCES SUPPORTING PAPADOPOULOS, CONTRASTED
WITH UNINSPIRED, UNAPPEALING CAMPAIGN OF ZANNAS AND
BACKERS, ESPECIALLY IN CRUCIAL LAST WEEK. IT POINTED
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 THESSA 00231 071430Z

OUT THAT WHILE LEFTISTS BUSSED SUPPORTERS FROM ATHENS

HERE TO SUPPORT THEIR CANDIDATES, 39,000 OF 163,000 REGISTERED VOTERS FAILED TO CAST BALLOTS, CHIEFLY BECAUSE OF 200 KILOMETER DISTANCE EXEMPTION, OF WHOM MOST BELIEVED LIKELY ZANNAS BACKERS; B5 CONSERVATIVE BACKLASH, VENGEANCE VOTE FOR FAILURE OF KARAMANLIS TO PRESENT AND SUPPORT RIGHTIST CANDIDATE; C) UNEXPECTED SWING OF FALLEN PRIMARY CANDIDATE GOGOUSIS TO PAPADOPOULOS, AND FAILURE OF DEFEATED CANDIDATES TSIROS AND PASCHOS TO INSTRUCT BACKERS TO VOTE FOR ZANNAS; D) WHILE ZANNAS ATTEMPTED DEPOLITICIZE CAMPAIGN AND KEEP IT AT "HIGH LEVEL OF DECENCY" (HIS WORDS), E.G., REFUSAL TO POUND AWAY AT OPPOSITION'S COMMUNIST SUPPORT, PAPADOPOULOS BACKERS SUCCESSFULLY LABELED ZANNAS AS WEALTHY ARISTOCRAT LACKING COMMON TOUCH WITH SUCH SLOGANS AS "NO VOTE FOR THE SALONS" (OHI PSIFO STA SALONIA); E) WHEN ASSISTANCE FOR ZANNAS CAUSE FINALLY ARRIVED FROM ATHENS IN PRESENCE OF FIVE LOCAL ND DEPUTIES (THREE OF WHOM HAD EARLIER SUPPRTED GOGOUSIS), IT CAME TWO DAYS BEFORE ELECTION, MUCH TOO LATE TO RETRIEVE SITUATION. IN GENERAL, IT WAS VICTORY OF A WELL-ORGANIZED, HARD-HITTING, UNITED CAMPAIGN OVER POORLY COORDINATED, POLITICALLY PALLID, AND PERHAPS OVER-CONFIDENT OPPOSITION.

3. ELSEWHERE IN NORTH, COMMUNIST EX-MAYOR TSOLAKIS WON OVER CONSERVATIVE KONTOMISOPOULOS IN KAVALA (REF 3), WHILE OTHER LEFT OF CENTER CU CANDIDATES WERE REGISTERING VICTORIES IN SERRES, NEGRITA, POLYGIROS, VERRIA AND NAOUSSA. IN MAJOR CENTERS OF AREA, CANDIDATES WITH CONSERVATIVE CU COLORATION WON ONLY IN KASTORIA AND KOMOTINI. IN KOMOTINI SOLE DISTURBANCE OF PEACEFUL ELECTION IN NORTH REPORTED WHEN DEFEATED OPPONENT OF WINNER STOYANNIDIS ORGANIZED PROTEST BASED ON ACCUSATION LATTER HAD WON BY CORRALING TURKISH MINORITY VOTE. BRENNAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION RESULTS, MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975THESSA00231
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750119-1151
From: THESSALONIKI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750473/aaaacpnf.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 THESSALONIKI'S 227, 75 THESSALONIKI'S 222
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <03 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEFTISTS GAIN MUNICIPAL VICTORIES IN THESSALONIKI AND NORTH.
TAGS: PINT, GR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006